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Takahashi et al.

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(54) **CAMERA APPARATUS**

USPC 348/143, 360, 151, 164
See application file for complete search history.

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 285 days.

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JP	2007-235863	9/2007
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H04N 5/33 (2006.01)

H04N 5/225 (2006.01)

G03B 11/04 (2006.01)

G03B 15/05 (2006.01)

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **H04N 5/33** (2013.01); **G03B 11/04**

(2013.01); **G03B 15/05** (2013.01); **H04N 5/225**

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2215/0503 (2013.01); **G03B 2215/0567**

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2215/0589 (2013.01)

USPC **348/143**; 348/151; 348/164; 348/360

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC H04N 5/33; H04N 5/2254

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A camera apparatus includes: an image pickup device; a lens configured to converge light from an object to the image pickup device; a coaxial circular-shaped lens cover in which the lens is arranged; a plurality of infrared light sources arranged to surround the lens in the lens cover; and a light shielding member which is provided between the lens and the infrared light source and which has an opening. The opening is outwardly extended at corner optical path portions which correspond to diagonal corners of an angle of view of the image pickup device.

11 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets

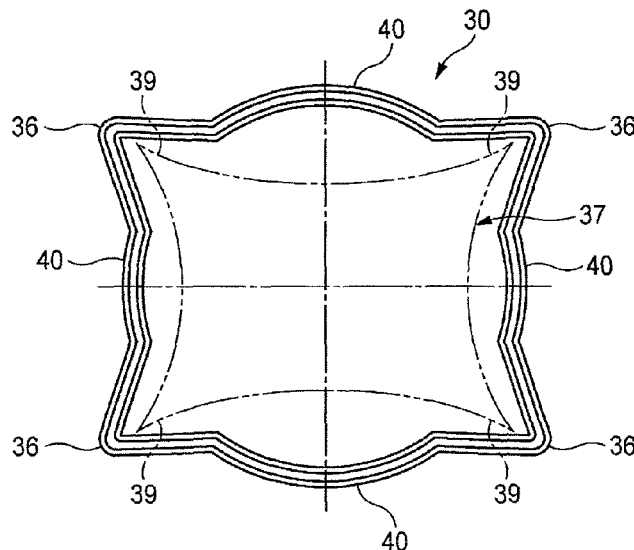


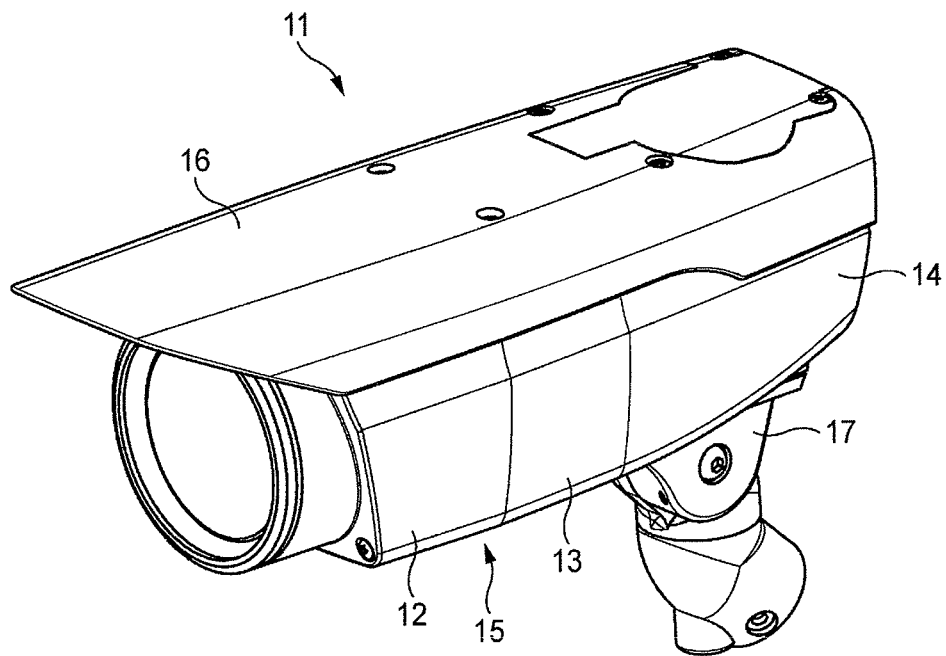
FIG. 1

FIG. 2

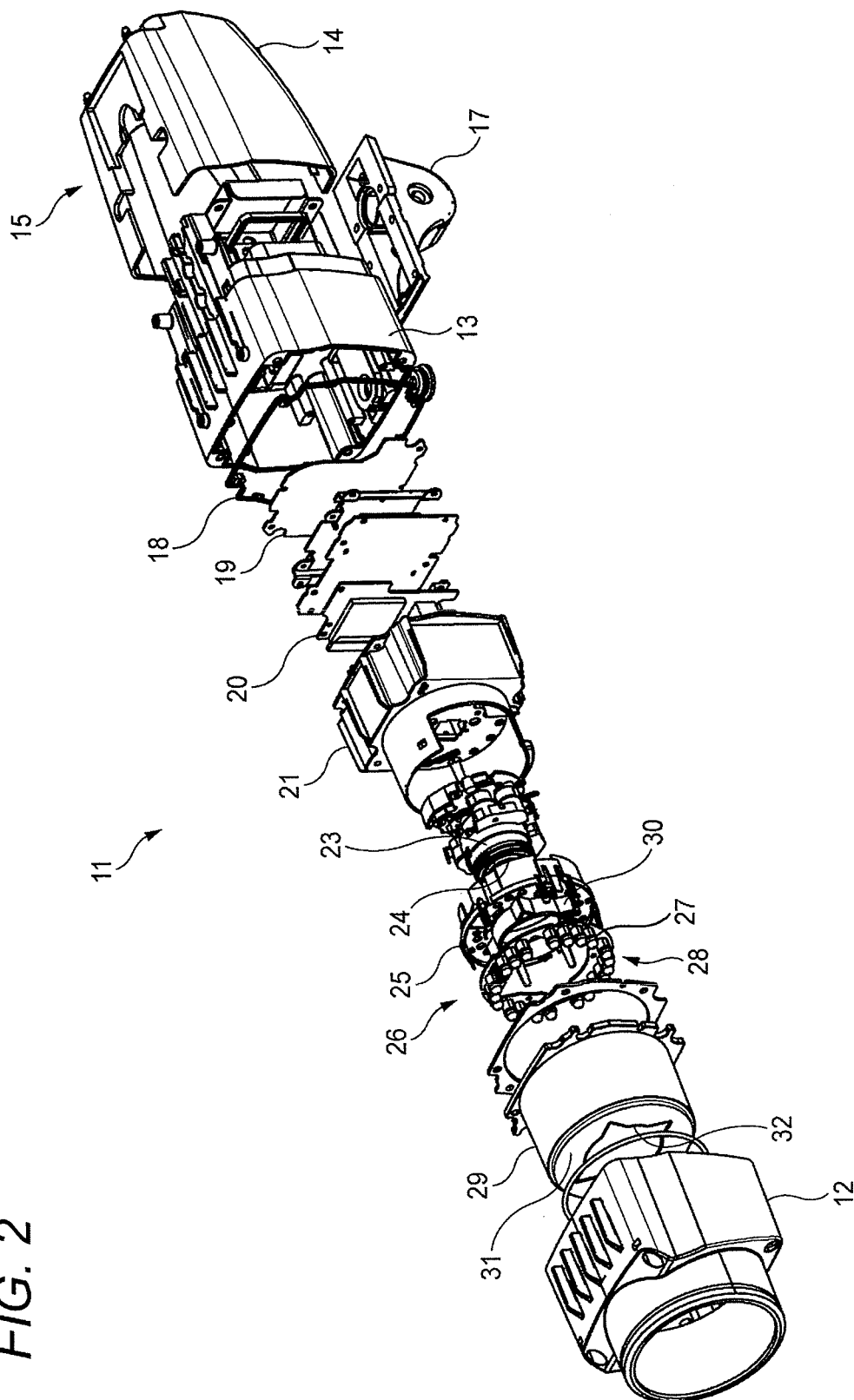


FIG. 3A

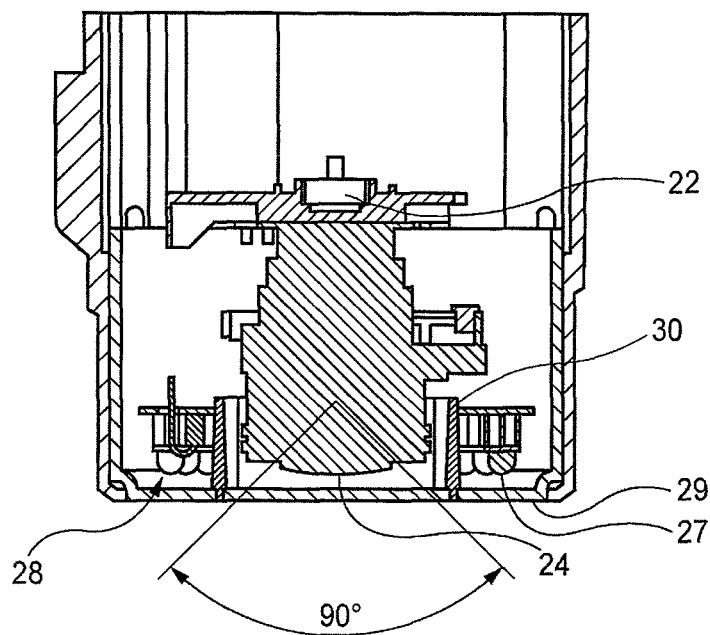


FIG. 3B

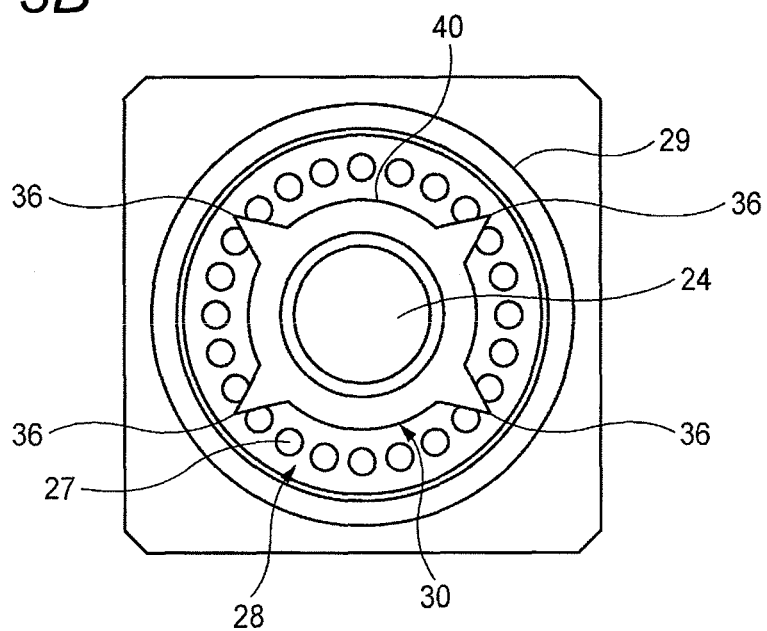


FIG. 4A

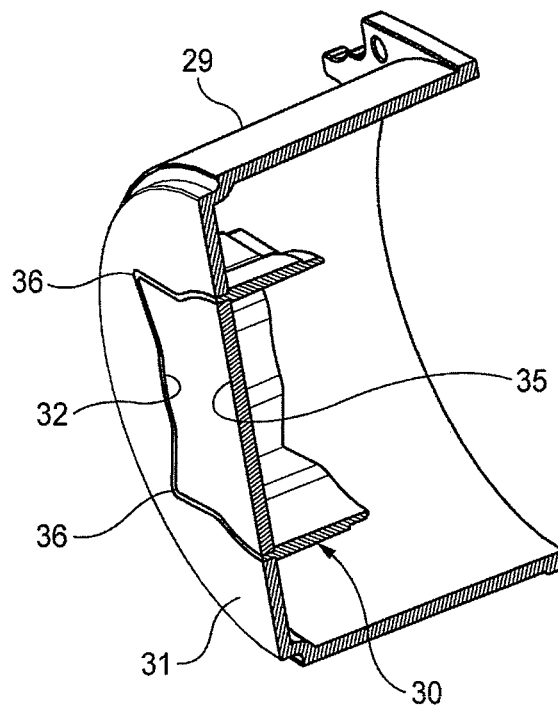


FIG. 4B

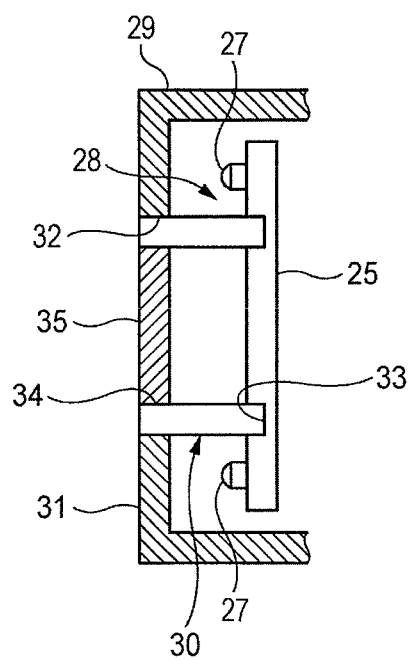


FIG. 5A

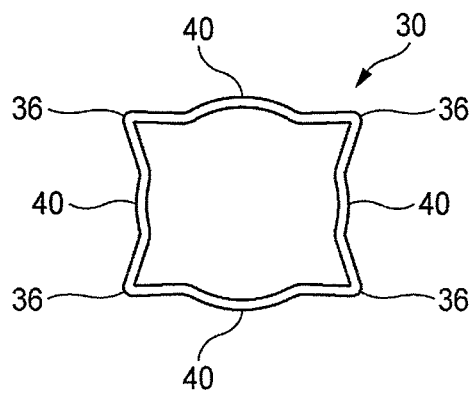


FIG. 5B

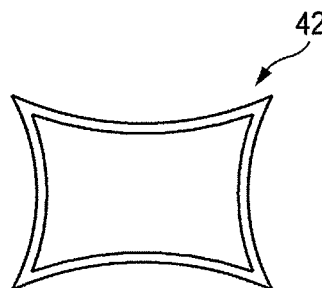


FIG. 5C

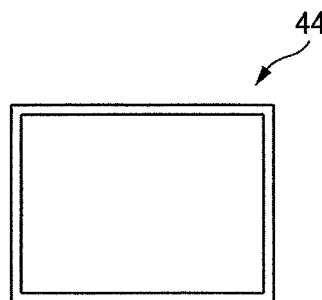
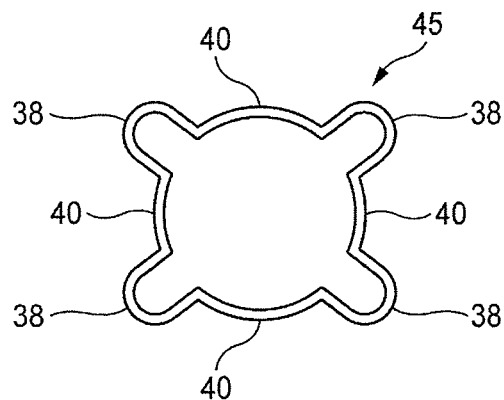


FIG. 5D



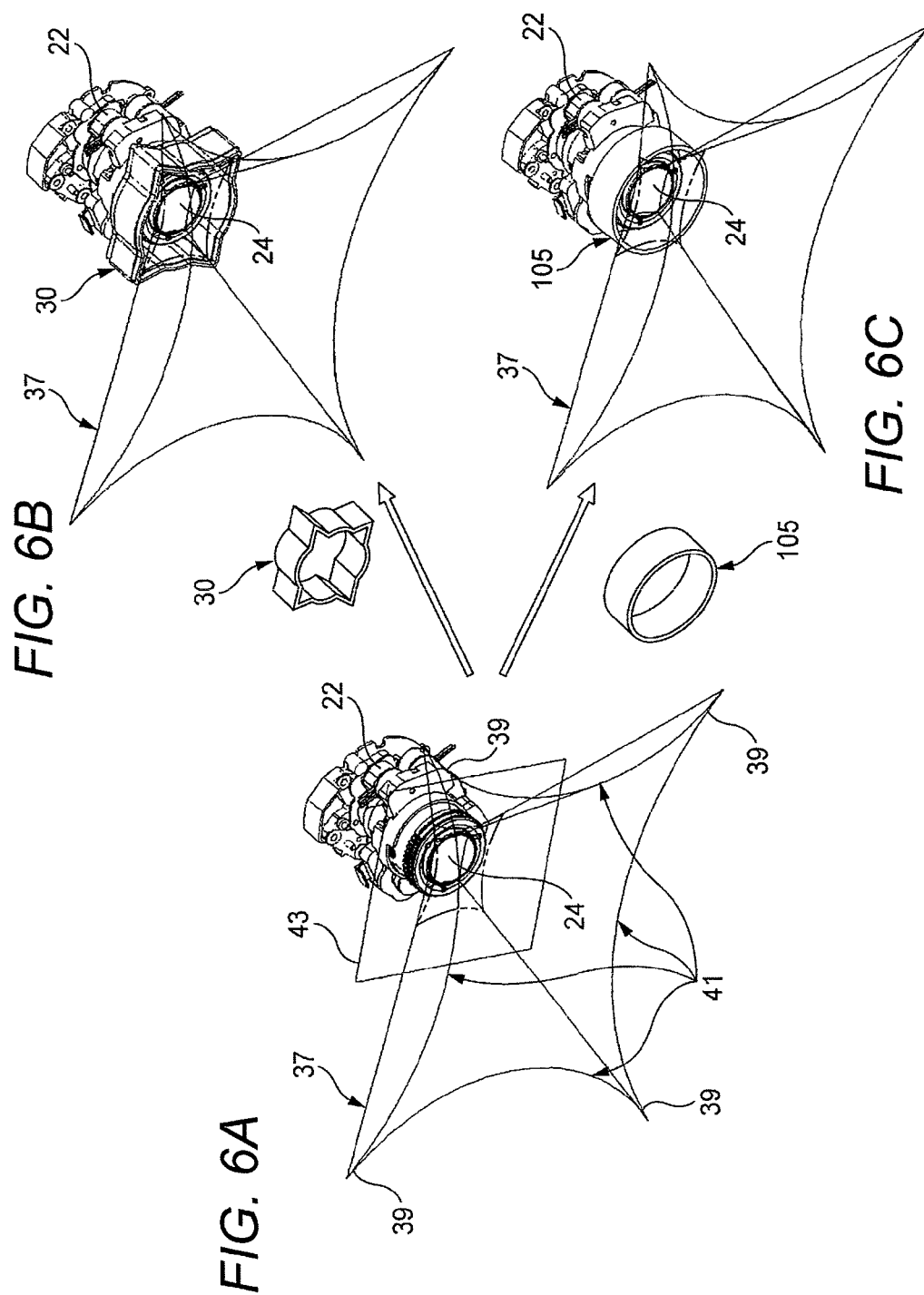


FIG. 7A

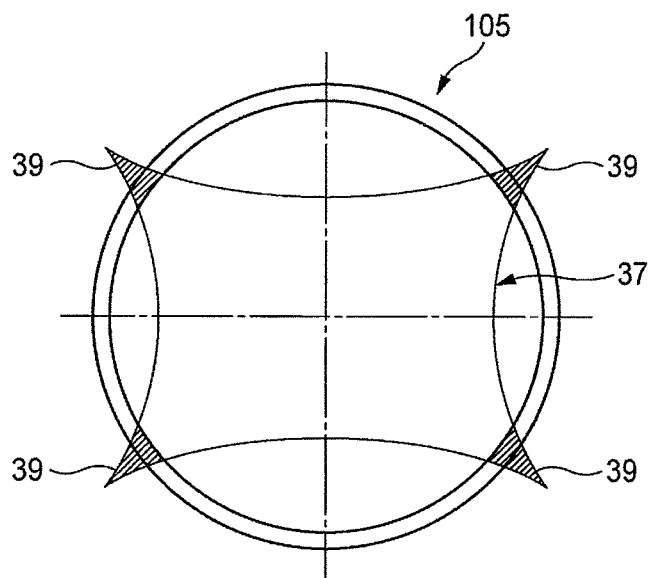


FIG. 7B

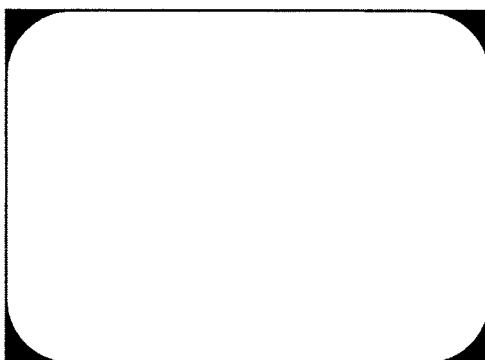


FIG. 8A

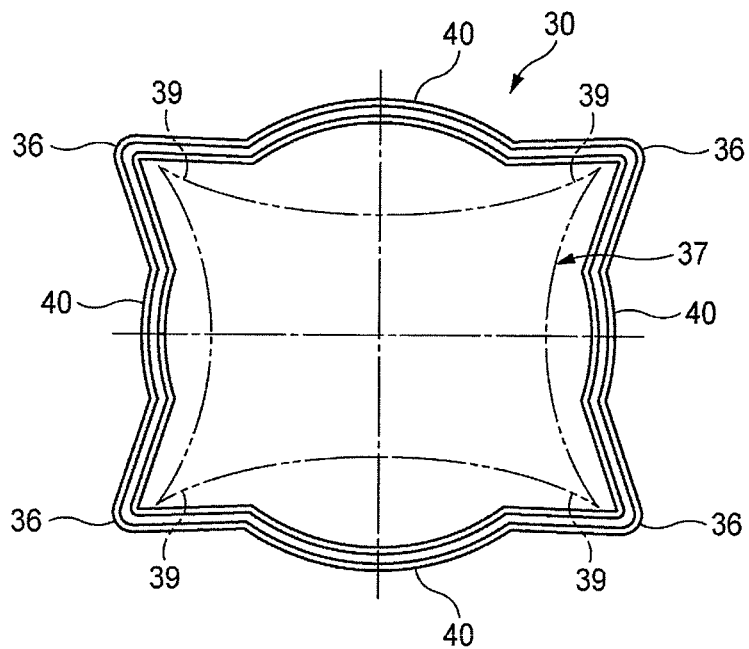


FIG. 8B

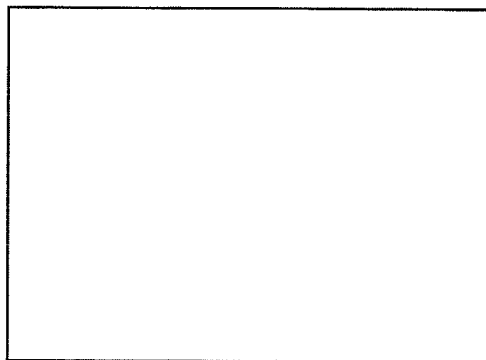


FIG. 9A

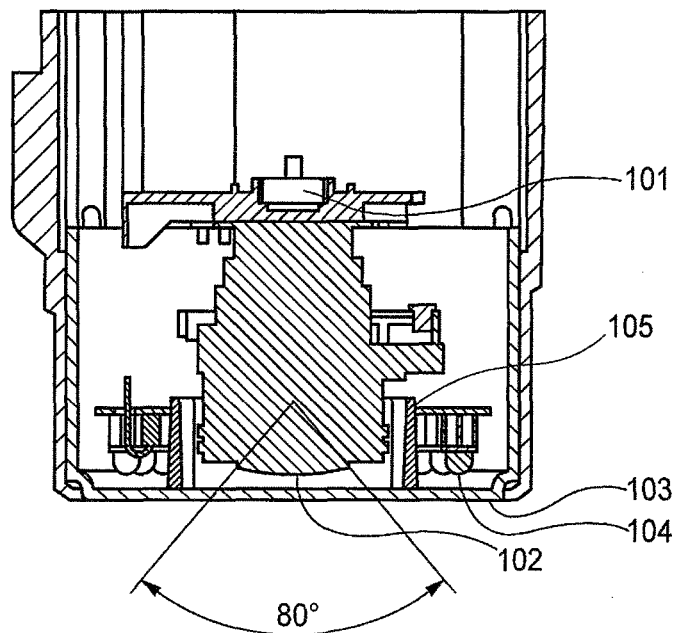
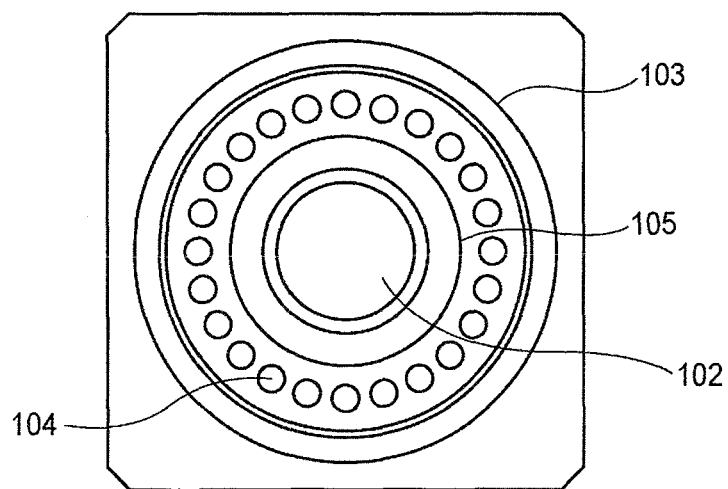


FIG. 9B



CAMERA APPARATUS

BACKGROUND

1. Technical Field

The present invention relates to a camera apparatus including a light shielding member provided at a lens cover.

2. Background Art

Some of surveillance cameras use infrared light having permeability or spectral characteristics superior to visible light. In the type of the surveillance camera, in order to prevent the infrared light of an infrared light source arranged around a lens from being incident on an optical system directly, a light shielding member is provided at a lens cover. JP-B-3988051 discloses an imaging apparatus, which is an example of a technique to provide a light shielding plate on a lens hood.

FIGS. 9A and 9B shows the surveillance camera of the related art which shields infrared light with a light shielding member. The surveillance camera includes an image pickup device **101**, a lens **102** which converges light from an object to the image pickup device **101**, and a circular coaxial lens cover **103** which has the lens **102** inside thereof. In the lens cover **103**, a plurality of infrared light sources **104** are annularly arranged to surround the lens **102**. A planar or cylindrical light shielding member **105** having a circular opening shape is provided between the lens **102** and the infrared light source **104**. Since the light shielding member **105** is provided, the infrared light can be suppressed to incident on the lens **102** without passing through the object from the infrared light source **104**.

SUMMARY

However, when the light shielding member **105** is circular shape, a vignetting occurs in a diagonal direction of an angle of view. In a case of the light shielding member **105** having a circular shape, a horizontal angle of view is limited to about 80 degree to obtain an image without the vignetting. Accordingly, in a case where the light shielding member **105** is the circular shape, in order to obtain wider angle of view of the lens, it is necessary to increase the diameter of the light shielding member **105**. As a result, the whole of the light shielding member **105** becomes large in the diameter, and the cross section of a product becomes large.

The present invention was made in view of the above-described circumstances, and an object thereof is to provide a camera apparatus capable of obtaining the wide angle image without increasing the size of the apparatus.

An aspect of the invention provides a camera apparatus including: an image pickup device; a lens configured to converge light from an object to the image pickup device; a coaxial circular-shaped lens cover in which the lens is arranged; a plurality of infrared light sources arranged to surround the lens in the lens cover; and a light shielding member which is provided between the lens and the infrared light source and which has an opening, wherein the opening is outwardly extended at corner optical path portions which correspond to diagonal corners of an angle of view of the image pickup device.

According to the camera apparatus of the aspect, the product can be decreased in size while obtaining the wide angle image without vignetting.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a surveillance camera of an embodiment according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the surveillance camera illustrated in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3A is a cross-sectional view of a lens cover portion including an optical axis thereof illustrated in FIG. 2, and FIG. 3B is a front view thereof;

FIG. 4A is a perspective view of the lens cover with cut-away a portion thereof, and FIG. 4B is a front view of a cutaway surface thereof;

FIG. 5A is a front view of a light shielding member having an opening shape in a triangular bulging-shaped portion, FIG. 5B is a front view of a light shielding member having an opening shape similar to a light flux corresponding to an angle of view, FIG. 5C is a front view of a light shielding member having an opening shape of a rectangular shape, and FIG. 5D is a front view of a light shielding member having an opening shape in a half oval-shaped portion;

FIG. 6A is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens representing an optical path corresponding to the angle of view, FIG. 6B is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens including a light shielding member of an embodiment, and FIG. 6C is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens including a light shielding member of a comparative example;

FIG. 7A is a front view of FIG. 6C, and FIG. 7B is a front view of an image obtained by the light shielding member;

FIG. 8A is a front view of FIG. 6B, and FIG. 8B is a front view of an image obtained by the light shielding member; and

FIG. 9A is a cross-sectional view of a lens cover portion of the related art including an optical axis thereof, and FIG. 9B is a front view thereof.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hereinafter, embodiments of the invention are described with reference to drawings.

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a surveillance camera which serves as a camera apparatus of an embodiment according to the invention.

A surveillance camera **11** of the embodiment is covered by a cover case **15** including a front cover **12**, a main body cover **13** and a rear cover **14**. The cover case **15** is further covered by a top plate **16** at an upper portion thereof. In the surveillance camera **11**, a mounting seat **17** is provided at the location of the main body cover **13**, and the mounting seat **17** is fixed at a support which meets a CD including a female LAN terminal (not shown).

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the surveillance camera **11** illustrated in FIG. 1.

In the main body cover **13**, a seal frame material **18**, a heat sink **19**, a rear surface pressing plate **20** and an operation portion cover **21** are accommodated. In the operation portion cover **21**, an image pickup device **22** is accommodated. In the image pickup device **22**, a cylindrical lens seat **23** is provided, and the lens seat **23** accommodates therein a lens **24**. The lens **24** converges light from the object to the image pickup device **22**.

At an outer periphery of the lens seat **23**, an annular light source mounting board **25** is inserted from outside. At the light source mounting board **25**, an annular infrared light source **26** is mounted. In the embodiment, the infrared light source **26** includes an annular LED light emitting portion **28** in which a plurality of LEDs **27** are arranged in a circumferential direction. As the infrared light source **26**, a light source other than the LED may be used.

The outside of the annular LED light emitting portion **28** is covered by a lens cover **29**. The lens cover **29** is accommodated in the front cover **12**. The lens cover **29** is formed in a coaxial circular shape and includes therein the annular LED

light emitting portion 28 and the lens 24. In other words, the infrared light source 26 surrounds the lens 24 at the inside of the lens cover 29 and is annularly arranged. A light shielding member 30 is provided between the lens 24 and the annular LED light emitting portion 28.

FIG. 3A is a cross-sectional view of a lens cover portion illustrated in FIG. 2 including an optical axis thereof, FIG. 3B is a front view thereof, FIG. 4A is a perspective view of the lens cover 29 with cutaway a portion thereof and FIG. 4B is a front view of a cutaway surface thereof.

As shown in FIG. 4A, the light shielding member 30 is coaxially mounted to a circular end plate 31 which closes one axial end of the lens cover 29. The circular end plate 31 of the lens cover 29 is formed by a member which transmits at least the infrared light. As shown in FIG. 4B, at the circular end plate 31, a light shielding member mounting hole 32, in which the light shielding member 30 penetrates and is assembled, is formed. The light shielding member 30 is inserted into the light shielding member mounting hole 32. A rear end of the light shielding member 30, which is mounted in the light shielding member mounting hole 32, is fitted and fixed in a concave portion 33 of the light source mounting board 25. In other words, a front end of the light shielding member 30 is fixed in the light shielding member mounting hole 32, and the rear end thereof is fixed to the light source mounting board 25. The lens 24 fixed at the lens seat 23 is arranged an inside of the light shielding member 30. In addition, a front opening portion 34 of the light shielding member 30 is covered by a cover member 35 which transmits at least the infrared light. The cover member 35 is separated from the circular end plate 31.

FIG. 5A is a front view of a light shielding member 30 having an opening shape in a triangular bulging-shaped portion 36, FIG. 5B is a front view of a light shielding member 42 having an opening shape similar to a light flux 37 (see FIG. 6A, FIG. 6B and FIG. 6C) corresponding to an angle of view, FIG. 5C is a front view of a light shielding member 44 having an opening shape of a rectangular shape and FIG. 5D is a front view of a light shielding member 45 having an opening shape in a half oval-shaped portion 38.

The light shielding member 30 has an opening shape which outwardly extends at a diagonal corner corresponding optical path portion 39 (hereinafter referred to as a corner optical path portion 39) corresponding to the diagonal corners of the angle of view in the image pickup device 22. In the embodiment, as shown in FIG. 5A, the light shielding member 30 is configured such that the opening shape thereof has the triangular bulging-shaped portion 36 which outwardly protrudes from a circular opening shape portion 40 at a position corresponding to the corner optical path portion 39. Accordingly, in the embodiment, while the circular opening shape portion 40 of the light shielding member 30 is not changed from a shape of the related art, only the triangular bulging-shaped portion 36 protruding from the circular opening shape portion 40 is formed to avoid the corner optical path portion 39 which protrudes outwardly. With this configuration, it is not necessary to largely change the location of the infrared light source 26 from the related art.

Next, the function of the surveillance camera 11 having the configuration described above is described while comparing with a comparative example.

FIG. 6A is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens representing an optical path corresponding to the angle of view, FIG. 6B is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens including a light shielding member 30 of an embodiment, FIG. 6C is a perspective view in the vicinity of a lens including a light shielding member 105 of a comparative example, FIG. 7A is a front view of FIG. 6C, FIG. 7B is a front view of

an image obtained by the light shielding member, FIG. 8A is a front view of FIG. 6B, FIG. 8B is a front view of an image obtained by the light shielding member.

As shown in FIG. 6A, in a case where the light passing through the lens 24 produces an image of a rectangular shape, for example, on a CCD (or a CMOS) of the image pickup device 22, the light flux 37 before entering into the lens 24 has a cross-sectional shape surrounded by light flux lines 41 such that the corner optical path portion 39 tends to protrude (the corner extends radially). Specifically, in a case of a lens 24 of a wide-angle lens system, the light hits obliquely on a peripheral portion of the CCD. When the light obliquely enters the CCD, electric charge cannot be generated sufficiently. The diagonal corner portion has a tendency to protrude in order to compensate for this of the light amount.

Here, for example, as shown in FIG. 6C, when using the light shielding member 105 of the circular shape according to the comparative example similar to the related art, as shown in FIG. 7A, the corner optical path portion 39 protruding outward is positioned the outside of the light shielding member 105 and is vignetted. As a result, as shown in FIG. 7B, the image becomes dark at the diagonal corner portion.

In contrast, in the configuration using the light shielding member 30 according to the embodiment shown in FIG. 6B, as shown in FIG. 8A, the triangular bulging-shaped portion 36 outwardly protruding from the circular opening shape portion 40 is provided at a position corresponding to the corner optical path portion 39. Accordingly, the optical path for the diagonal corner is secured, which is necessary at the time of wide angle of the lens. The lens optical path and an image pickup range generally tend to protrude in the diagonal corner portion. With this configuration, as shown in FIG. 8B, the image with no vignetting can be obtained without increasing the diameter of the light shielding member 30 as a whole, by outwardly extending only the optical path portion 39 in the light shielding member 30.

Next, a modification of the light shielding member 30 is described.

As shown in FIG. 5B, the opening of the light shielding member 42 may have a shape similar to a cross sectional shape of the light flux 37 on a plane 43 (see FIG. 6A) orthogonal to a center axis of the light flux 37 which corresponds to the angle of view in the image pickup device 22 and which enters from the object into the lens 24.

According to the light shielding member 42 of the modification, the shape thereof is somewhat complicated. However, the light shielding member 42 can be formed in a minimum size without occurrence of the vignetting.

As shown in FIG. 5C, the opening of the light shielding member 44 may be a rectangular shape which is defined by straight lines which connect the protruding ends of the adjacent corner optical path portions 39.

According to the light shielding member 44 of the modification, the light shielding member 44 can be produced in the rectangular shape which is easily manufactured without the vignetting. Even in the case, the light shielding member 44 can be formed smaller than the case where the light shielding member 105 of the circular shape of the related art as a whole is increased in the diameter, since when the diameter of the light shielding member 105 is increased, the diameter of the opening becomes a diameter of a circumscribing circle of the rectangular shape of the light shielding member 44.

As shown in FIG. 5D, the opening of the light shielding member 45 may have the half oval-shaped portion 38 which outwardly bulges from the circular opening shape portion 40 at the position corresponding to the optical path portion 39.

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According to the light shielding member **45** of the modification, while the circular opening shape portion **40** of the light shielding member **30** is not changed from a shape of the related art, the half oval-shaped portion **38** protrudes radially from the circular opening shape portion **40**. Accordingly, it is not necessary to largely change the location of the infrared light source **26** from the related art. In addition, according to the configuration, the manufacture becomes easy. Furthermore, by changing the protrusion length of the half oval-shaped portion **38**, the light shielding member can easily deal with the optical path portion **39** where the degree of the protrusion increases and decreases according to the degree of the wide angle.

According to the surveillance camera **11** of the embodiment, the product can be decreased in size while obtaining the wide angle image without vignetting.

The embodiment may be applied to the camera apparatus corresponding to the wide angle image without enlarging the cross section of the product.

This application claims the benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 2011-170759 filed on Aug. 4, 2011, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

What is claimed is:

1. A camera apparatus comprising:

an image pickup device;

a lens configured to converge light from an object to the image pickup device;

a circular-shaped lens cover, the lens cover being coaxially positioned about the lens;

a plurality of infrared light sources arranged to surround the lens in the lens cover; and

a light shielding member which is provided between the lens and the infrared light sources and which has an opening,

wherein the opening extends outwardly at corner optical path portions which correspond to diagonal corners of an angle of view of the image pickup device, the opening of the light shielding member having a periphery comprising a plurality of first arcuate portions and a plurality of second portions having a shape different than a shape of the first arcuate portions, each of the second portions being provided between two of the first arcuate portions, the second portions corresponding to the corner optical path portions and including at least one non-arcuate portion.

2. The camera apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the opening of the light shielding member has triangular bulging-shaped portions which outwardly

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protrude from a circular opening shape and which are provided at positions corresponding to the corner optical path portions, the triangular bulging-shaped portions comprising the second portions.

3. The camera apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the opening of the light shielding member has a circular opening shape with half oval-shaped portions which outwardly bulge from a circular opening shape portion at positions corresponding to the corner optical path portions, the half oval shaped portions comprising the second portions.

4. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an outer periphery of the lens is circular.

5. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a circular end plate provided at a distal end of the lens cover, the circular end plate comprising a light shielding member mounting hole configured to receive an end of the light shielding member, the light shielding member mounting hole extending through a thickness of the circular end plate.

6. The camera apparatus according to claim 5, a frontmost end of the light shielding member is secured within the light shielding member mounting hole and a rearmost end of the light shielding member is secured to a light source mounting board on which the plurality of infrared light sources are mounted.

7. The camera apparatus according to claim 5, a frontmost end of the light shielding member is covered by an infrared light transmissive cover member.

8. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a circular end plate provided at a distal end of the lens cover, a frontmost end of the light shielding member is covered by an infrared light transmissive cover member, the infrared light transmissive cover member being separate from the circular end plate.

9. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, the second portions including two non-arcuate shaped portions.

10. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, a junction between each of the first arcuate portions and an adjacent second portion defining a point of discontinuity in the shape of the periphery of the light shielding member.

11. The camera apparatus according to claim 1, the light shielding member having a proximal end closest to the lens and a distal end distant from the lens, the surface of the light shielding member between the proximal and distal ends being parallel to an optical axis of the lens.

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